

Homelessness



Homelessness is a regional issue that affects the Redmond community, but the experience of being homeless has the greatest impact on the individual—the person without a home.

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Summary:

There are surprising and heart-wrenching stories behind so many who find themselves homeless. A variety of situations contribute to homelessness: some people have lost their homes because of a gap between wages and rapidly escalating rent and housing costs; others are fleeing domestic violence; some battle mental health or addiction issues; and others experience a series of mishaps that leave them without any other option. There are many paths into homelessness and we as a community need to help create many paths out.

Strategies:

As a community, Redmond strives for a balanced approach to homelessness that considers everyone's needs. The City is actively engaged in multiple efforts to address the challenge of homelessness. These efforts include the Community Task Force on Homelessness, roving bicycle police, hiring a dedicated homeless outreach specialist, the annual homeless count, alliances with Eastside cities and King County's All Home initiative, and partnerships with the faith community and nonprofits to provide services. Our community has a collective challenge to learn about the many root causes of homelessness, to engage in efforts that will make homelessness rare, and to help these situations be brief and one-time experiences.

ALL IN

ALL HOME

REDMOND

Tackling homelessness together

357
homeless kids
in Lake Washington
schools are homeless

39% increase
in homelessness
For every \$100 increase in rent

Homeless families wait
6 months+ for housing
in King County

More details at redmond.gov/Homelessness

Major Projects Completed and Underway

The City of Redmond is shaping its programs and partnership efforts to build a framework of hope that our community can offer to those who find themselves without a home. In July of 2016, we launched a community awareness initiative to educate and engage the community to be part of the solution. The following are some actions that will make a difference in our ability to address homelessness.

Actions and strategies to combat homelessness

General Community

City of Redmond

Human Services Agencies /
Faith Community

Meet and develop a plan with all of the community

- Working group formed of Law Enforcement and Human Services staff from Eastside cities (January 2015)
- Redmond community meeting (March 2015)
- Community Task Force on Homelessness (April 2015–August 2015)
- Task Force Report and Recommendations (September 2015)
- Task Force Implementation Committee—charged with working to implement the Task Force recommendations (ongoing)

Implement City programs and partner with the region

- Convening of teams from King County cities to learn about promising practices for addressing homelessness (ongoing)
- Bike Patrols (deployed May 2016)
- Homeless Outreach Specialist (July 2016, pilot launched)
- Tent encampment permitting review by City Council (May 2016)

Become educated on root causes of homelessness

- Visit resource sites and learn more at redmond.gov/homelessness
- Volunteer for an agency that helps people experiencing homelessness and get to know their stories

Make a difference

- Participate in One Night Count of homeless every January; in 2016 there was an 81% increase over the previous year in the Eastside count
- Just smile and say “hello” when walking by a homeless person on the street
- Organize a fundraiser to support a local organization helping people experiencing homelessness

Get Involved:

Learn more at

- redmond.gov/homelessness
- allhomekc.org



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